28th August 1926]

(c) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to clause (b) of Legislative Council question No. 2302.

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" May I know if the hon. the Minister for Development has any proposal to take duly qualified fishermen for the purpose of being trained in deep-sea fishing ? "

The hon. the President :—" This question is only about a trawler and not about training. "

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" I am asking whether there is any proposal for the purpose of imparting the knowledge of deep-sea fishing. . . . "

The hon. the President :—" That is a separate question. "

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" In clause (c) I have asked 'what use it has been put to' and the answer is 'The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to clause (b) of Legislative Council question No. 2302'. Thus attention is invited to a number of uses to which the trawler has been put to. Naturally, my hon. Friend's question follows. I ask, whether it is contemplated that fishermen should be employed for the purpose of being trained in deep-sea fishing ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" The answer is with the hon. Member already. "

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" May I know whether the hon. Minister would see that deep-sea fishing is introduced on the West Coast ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" The question has been already answered. "

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" May I know whether it does not necessarily follow that some young men ought to be trained in the art ? "

The hon. the President :—" The question is only about the use to which the trawler has been put. "

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" The purpose for which the trawler has been purchased is for the purpose of deep-sea fishing and so the question necessarily follows whether there is any proposal to train some youngsters in deep-sea fishing. I see the hon. the Minister is anxious to train people in soap manufacture, fish canning and other things. "

Education.

Age-limit for admission in secondary schools.

* 2387 Q.—Mr. R. Veerian : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether any restrictions were imposed recently by the Director of Public Instruction with reference to age-limit of boys belonging to all classes in secondary schools ;

(b) if so, whether a copy of such a rule or circular will be placed on the table of this House ;

(c) whether such restrictions with reference to age-limit for admission apply in the case of depressed classes boys also ; and

(d) what is the principle involved in imposing such restrictions ?

[28th August 1926

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 2297.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Sir, in the answer to this question, I am asked to refer to the answer to question No. 2297. There, I find that 'heads of schools were, however, advised not to admit grown-up pupils. The intention of the circular has since been clearly explained to subordinate officers. The circular was merely advisory. The Director's intention was that if, for example, a man of 25 applied for admission to the fourth form, the application should be rejected.' In the case of the depressed classes, as they have not free access to the elementary schools managed by the public bodies, they are reluctantly obliged to keep their boys and girls at home until they grow old. May I know why there should be age restriction in the case also of admission into schools ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" How does age improve their position ? "

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" We keep our boys at home until they grow older than the average school-going boys. Here there is an age restriction that pupils should be admitted into secondary schools only if they are below a certain age. On account of this, grown-up boys are refused admission."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" What is the hon. Member's point ? "

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I want to know whether the hon. Minister in charge will kindly issue liberal orders so that, in the case of the depressed classes seeking admission to schools, there may be no age restriction. "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Liberal orders have already been issued and there is no difficulty whatever for depressed classes pupils being admitted at the discretion of the headmasters or managers of the schools."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" When the discretion is left in the hands of the managers or headmasters, we are undergoing difficulty. May I know whether there is any difficulty for the hon. Minister in issuing such circulars in a liberal manner taking away the discretionary powers given to the headmasters or managers ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" A very liberal circular has been issued explaining the order of the Director of Public Instruction."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" I see a number of boys denied admission to the lower classes as they are aged 13. Because they come to the sixth form in their 20th year, they are prevented from entering the lower classes at 13. May I know what the explanation is for this ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" There is no positive prohibition. It is purely advisory and it is left to the discretion of the headmaster or manager of the institution whether it is advisable in the case of young men of 20 or 25 that they should be admitted in the first or second form. It is purely advisory, and it does make no restriction in the admission of pupils of any particular community."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Why should not that advice be withdrawn ? They say that students in the sixth form should not be above 20 years. It means that boys of 14 or 16 will not be admitted into the lower classes now."